

REMARKS

Applicants acknowledge the indication of the allowability of the subject matter of Claims 66-68 and 70-72, as set forth at page 5 of the Office Action. In particular, the latter claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form and amended to address the formal issues raised under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. As discussed hereinafter, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 66-68 and 70-72 are now allowable.

As indicated at page 5 of the Office Action, counsel and the Examiner discussed this application on February 13, 2004 and agreed to the language set forth at page 5 of the Office Action in order to overcome the prior art rejection based on the Ueda reference (U.S. Patent No. 5,048,940). By the foregoing amendment, Applicants have adopted the changes as proposed and as set forth at page 5 of the Office Action. Accordingly, Applicants believe that Claims 65 and 69 are now allowable as well. Applicants thank the Examiner for his assistance in advancing the prosecution of this application via a telephone conference, which has likely avoided the necessity for further prosecution of this application.

Claims 65 and 69 have also been revised in a manner, discussed with the Examiner, in order to address and resolve the issues raised at page 3 of the

Office Action, under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. In addition, the Abstract of the Disclosure has been amended to reduce its length to less than 150 words, as required. A copy of the amended Abstract is attached hereto, on a separate page.

Finally, in accordance with the Examiner's comment at page 2 of the Office Action, Applicants have submitted herewith a form PTO-1449, separately listing each of the references previously cited in either of forms PTO-892 and PTO-1449, from prior related applications. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that each of these entries be initialed as noted by the Examiner, in order to indicate that they have been considered for this application.

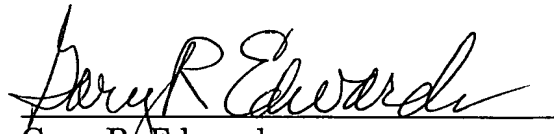
In light of the foregoing remarks, this application should be in condition for allowance, and early passage of this case to issue is respectfully requested. If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and

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please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit
Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #381NT/43243C5).

Respectfully submitted,



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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

When a projection lens system used for a rear projection type image display apparatus has a first lens group having an aspherical lens surface, a second lens group, a third lens group sharing almost all the positive refractive power of the overall system, a fourth lens group having an aspherical lens surface, a fifth lens group, and a sixth lens group including a lens having a profile of aspherical surface in which the concave surface thereof faces the screen side and the refractive power in the marginal area is weaker than the refractive power around the optical axis, a projection lens system having a large aperture ratio (low F-number), high focus, wide field angle, and sufficient marginal light amount ratio can be realized at a low cost. ~~When a predetermined opening portion is formed in the projection lens and lens barrel, the lens elements are cooled by air suction and exhaust and the lowering of the lens performance due to temperature change can be prevented. When a flange is arranged in a suitable location of the opening portion, entry of a foreign material from the opening portion and light leakage from the inside are prevented and the contrast performance of the projection type image display apparatus can be prevented from lowering.~~